

# GOVT EYEING GREENER + AUTO INDUSTRY

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We'll look into collaborations to meet net zero emission target by 2050, says PM

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**T**HE government is looking into collaborations with the automotive industry to meet its net zero emissions target by 2050.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday said the nation was facing economic uncertainty due to geopolitical crises and climate change.

"The government is taking steps to deal with the challenges, but it can't be done in silo without the cooperation of the private sector in strengthening the economy.

"So, I call on big companies to work with each other to achieve more successes for the people's benefit.

"This cooperation will help in achieving carbon neutrality in Malaysia by 2050 as agreed by the United Nations."

He said this at the launch of

Perodua Alza's latest model at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Ismail Sabri said Tenaga Nasional Bhd was working to increase electricity generation through clean energy resources and providing more electric car charging stations.

He said Perodua could seize the opportunity to explore new possibilities, including producing high-quality electric vehicles.

"Both parties can collaborate to introduce affordable charging rates.

"Telecommunication companies, such as Telekom Malaysia, could provide data packages that make online booking easier for consumers."

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua) president and chief executive officer Datuk Zainal Abidin Ahmad, when met later, said the company was carrying out a feasibility study and wished to collaborate with others to achieve the carbon neutrality target.

"I have also informed the prime minister that we'll do it step by step and will make an announcement after finalising the study.

"This year, we will focus on delivering 243,000 bookings (Perodua models).

"If we want to ensure that those who made the bookings enjoy the

sales tax exemption (that ended on June 30), we have to make sure the cars are delivered by March 31 next year."

To meet the target, he said the company should produce about 26,000 cars a month.

Those who placed their booking after June 30 might experience delays in receiving their cars due to a shortage of components as well as lack of manpower faced by vendors, he said.

The normal waiting period for a Perodua car is between six and seven months.

"We have received feedback from our vendors and they have started receiving new workers.

"On the semiconductor chip shortage, the world is still facing the problem.

"Perodua has taken steps to source the component from alternative suppliers.

"The issue doesn't greatly affect Perodua's production, at least for this year."

The latest Alza model, which will be delivered to customers from today, is priced at RM62,500 for the X variant, RM68,000 for the H variant and RM75,500 for the AV variant, based on prices in Peninsular Malaysia with sales tax and without insurance.

More than 30,000 bookings have been made since June 23, the highest for any Perodua model within a month.